

XX. *Description of Ulva punctata.* By John Stackhouse, Esq. F. L. S.

Read May 5, 1795.

ULVA PUNCTATA.

ULVA dichotoma, membranacea, diaphana; segmentis latis, uniformibus, apice furcatis; fructificatione globosa, sessili, in maculis oblongis per totam frondem glomeratim disposita.

*Sp. nov.*

An inter *Ulvas* vel *Fucos* annumeranda sit species hæc, haud equidem, ut opinor, satis liquidò constat. *Altitudo* sexuncialis; *latitudo* segmentorum vix uncialis: apices obtusi, furcati. *Habitus* dichotomus. *Substantia* frondis tenuissima, pellucida. *Fructificatio* per totam frondem ordine bino, glomeratim disposita: tubercula singula, rotunda, glabra, sessilia, atro-rubentia. *Frons* enervis, e basi tuberculata, subtus plana, faxis adhærenti exoritur.

*Hab.* ad oppidum Weymouth in arena juxta portum.

*Dotted Ulva.*—Fronde dichotomous, membranaceous, transparent: the divisions wide, uniform, bluntly forked. Fructification in patches; tubercles crowded, round, smooth, without footstalks, dark-red colour.

*Observations.*

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The substance of this rare plant is as thin as goldbeaters' skin, or the membrane of *Ulva umbilicalis*. It arises from a little knobby root, flat at bottom; and grows in a crowded mass. It is perfectly dichotomous, the segments broad, of an equal size, forked obtusely. Its colour is brown, and pellucid as a bladder. The fructification covers the whole frond, in two rows of oblong patches, studded thick with small, round, dark-red granules. This plant has, I believe, never been noticed; it is, probably, a native of deep waters, and, from the delicacy of its texture, seldom thrown on shore perfect. Mr. Woodward, who has seen the specimen, thinks the fructification too regular, as to situation on the frond, for the genus *Ulva*; otherwise it would fall under his division of Fruit-bearing *Ulva*.

*Hab.* Thrown on shore on the sands at Weymouth, near the pier, at low-water mark, September 1792.